

## Message Text

SECRET

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46

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W  
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O 261214Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4105

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T LONDON 13154

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS USDEL SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, SREF, EAID, UK

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE POLITICAL CRISIS AND ALLIED DEMARCHES

REF: STATE 202520

1. IN THE ABSENCE OF FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN AND MINISTER OF STATE ROY HATTERSLEY, MINISTER SPIERS CALLED ON FCO PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY BRIMELOW THIS MORNING, AUGUST 26, TO MAKE DEMARCHE CONTAINED REFTEL. BRIMELOW WAS ACCOMPANIED BY RICHARD BAKER, DEPUTY HEAD OF SOUTHERN EUROPEAN DEPARTMENT, WHO IS KEY FCO ACTION OFFICER ON PORTUGUESE SITUATION. SPIERS PRESENTED BRIMELOW AND BAKER WITH AIDE MEMOIRE CONTAINING KEY TALKING POINTS PARAGRAPHS 3 AND 4 REFTEL.

2. AFTER HEARING OUT MINISTER SPIERS AND STUDYING TALKING POINTS, BRIMELOW BEGAN BY AFFIRMING THAT FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN CERTAINLY DOES WANT TO HELP TO ESTABLISH A MODERATE GOVERNMENT IN PORTUGAL. BRIMELOW

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DOUBTED CALLAGHAN WOULD HAVE ANY PROBLEMS WITH THE POINTS

OUTLINED, EXCEPT POSSIBLY PARA 3C REFTEL, SINCE THE  
THREAT OF POSSIBLE EXCLUSION OF PORTUGAL FROM NATO RUNS  
COUNTER TO HMG POLICY.

3. BAKER ADDED HE SAW SOME DIFFICULTY WITH THE WHOLE  
IDEA OF NEW ALLIED DEMARCHES. THEY MIGHT WELL INCREASE  
COSTA GOMES' DESIRE TO MOVE, BUT NOT HIS ABILITY TO  
MOVE. HE IS A "PRISONER OF SOMETHING," BUT WOULD THIS  
HELP TO "LIBERATE" HIM, BAKER ASKED. BAKER ALSO NOTED  
THAT THE SUGGESTED POINTS TO BE MADE WERE ALL OBVIOUS  
ONES WELL KNOWN TO COSTA GOMES. THE QUESTION, THEREFORE,  
WAS WHETHER THE ACT OF REITERATING THEM WOULD SERVE ANY  
PURPOSE.

4. BRIMELOW SAID THAT HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY TELEGRAPH OUR  
PROPOSAL TO THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR IN LISBON WHO HE  
THOUGHT MIGHT WANT TO DISCUSS IT WITH THE OTHER EC AMBAS-  
SADORS CONCERNED. BAKER THOUGHT THAT THE BRITISH  
AMBASSADOR SHOULD ALSO SOUND OUT THE A TUNES GROUP HIM-  
SELF TO CHECK THEIR JUDGMENT RE UTILITY ANOTHER DEMARCHE  
AND WHETHER THEY HAD CONSIDERED POSSIBLE ADVERSE RE-  
PERCUSSIONS.

5. BRIMELOW SAID HE WOULD OF COURSE ALSO TRY TO REACH  
CALLAGHAN AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE BY TELEPHONE BUT THAT  
THIS MIGHT PROVE DIFFICULT, SINCE CALLAGHAN IS IN IRELAND  
ON VACATION AND NOT ALWAYS ACCESSIBLE. BRIMELOW THOUGHT  
THAT CALLAGHAN WOULD WANT TO RECEIVE BRITISH AMBASSADOR'S  
ASSESSMENT BEFORE APPROVING FINAL INSTRUCTIONS RE POSSIBLE  
DEMARCHE. IN CLOSING BRIMELOW NOTED THAT CALLAGHAN  
ATTACHES THE GREATEST IMPORTANCE TO WORKING CLOSELY WITH  
THE US, AND THAT THIS WOULD PROBABLY BE HIS OVERRIDING  
CONSIDERATION IN REACHING DECISION.

6. COMMENT: BAKER WAS CLEARLY SKEPTICAL ABOUT THE  
UTILITY OF THE ENTIRE PROPOSED EXERCISE, BUT IN THE  
FINAL ANALYSIS WE BELIEVE BRIMELOW IS CORRECT THAT OVER-  
RIDING CONSIDERATION WILL BE CALLAGHAN'S DESIRE TO BE AS  
HELPFUL TO US AS POSSIBLE. GIVEN DIFFICULTY OF REACHING  
CALLAGHAN IN IRELAND AND EVIDENT INCLINATION OF FCO TO  
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SOUND OUT BRITISH AND OTHER CONCERNED AMBASSADORS IN  
LISBON BEFORE MAKING RECOMMENDATION TO CALLAGHAN,  
QUESTION REMAINS WHETHER BRITISH DEMARCHE CAN BE EFFECTED  
AS QUICKLY AS CONTEMPLATED REFTEL. WE STRESSED URGENCY  
OF USG PROPOSAL. AMBASSADOR CARLUCCI MAY WISH TO FOLLOW  
UP WITH BRITISH AND OTHER AMBASSADORS.

RICHARDSON

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECRETARY'S PARTY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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